

ALLOWANCE

1. Applicant's amendment in claim 33 in the Amendment filed August 7, 2009 has been received and considered by Examiner.
2. Applicant's amendments in the specification in the Amendment filed August 7, 2009 have been received and considered by Examiner.
3. The Terminal Disclaimers filed August 7, 2009 have been approved.
4. The drawings have been accepted.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 33-37, 47-49 and 54 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In regard to independent claim 33, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest: an intravascular stent comprising a metal tubular mesh member, the tubular mesh member having an internal helical formation to induce spiral flow therethrough, the internal helical formation having a helix angle between 5 and 16 degrees relative to a longitudinal axis of the stent.

In regard to independent claim 47, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest: an intravascular stent comprising an expansible tubular mesh member having a collapsed form to be inserted into a vein and an expanded form to be retained within the vein; the mesh member having at least one vane stationarily attached to an interior thereof and extending helically to

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induce spiral flow of blood, said at least one vane having a helix angle of between 5 and 16 degrees relative to a longitudinal axis of the mesh member.

Conclusion

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Walter B. Aughenbaugh whose telephone number is (571) 272-1488. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 9:00am to 7:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye, can be reached on (571) 272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Walter B. Aughenbaugh

10/19/09

/Rena L. Dye/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1794